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Piero di Medici's palace was looted in Florence, Commynes says that he got 20,000 ducats which he had "a son banc." Havard gives a number of instances of the use of the word in this sense. Indeed, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries even the word "Banque" might be used indifferently to mean a seat. "Banker," or "banquier" then meant the stuff-cover placed over the bench or "banc."

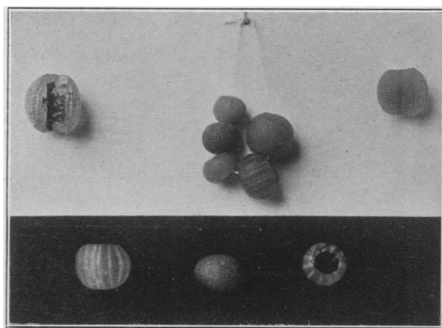
S. Y. S.



## HISTORICAL COLLECTION OF AMERICAN GLASS

It has been the policy of this Museum, while endeavoring to gather worthy examples of man's handiwork from all sections of the globe, for the inspiration of artisans in every department of industrial activity, to cover a field not hitherto seriously entered by any other museum—the building up of collections illustrating the history and development of the useful and decorative arts in America. The Museum is now in possession of the most representative collections of American glass and ceramics ever brought together. During the past year numerous additions have been made to the work of early American silversmiths and it is intended to make this collection as complete as possible. In early American iron work also an important nucleus for an instructive historical collection has been formed. Through these special collections, at the present time unique in museum exhibits, this Museum has already gained a foremost position among the museums of the world.

Many writers have referred to the manufacture of glass beads at Jamestown, Va., in 1621, one of the first industrial enterprises in the present territory of the United States, but no previous author has attempted to describe or illustrate them. The Museum has been so fortunate as to acquire a small collection of these beads, which were made for barter with the Indians. A few of these interesting historical relics, which have been fully authenticated, are here shown. They were washed up from the bed of the river near the site of the old glass house. Two varieties are illustrated, the larger examples being made of transparent glass, striped with white, and in appearance resembling small gooseberries. The smaller specimens are of a deep blue color, finely marked with incised longitudinal striations. They naturally show Italian influence since several workmen were brought over from Venice to make them. We have no means of ascertaining how extensively these beads were manufactured in the Virginia Colony, but that a considerable traffic was carried on with the natives may be inferred from the discovery of a considerable quantity of the small blue variety by Mr. Clarence B. Moore, in an intrusive burial in



GLASS BEADS  
Made at Jamestown, Va.  
In 1621



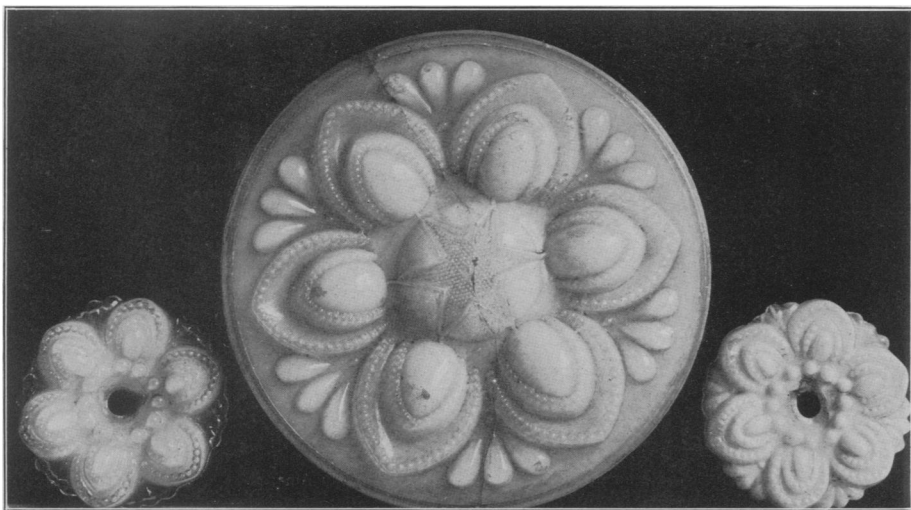
GLASS FLASKS  
Coventry, Conn., about 1825



PRESSED GLASS TEACUP PLATES  
American, 1830-1840

Volusia County, Florida, which are deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

The Museum's collection of American glass flasks and bottles with relief designs of historical interest is probably unique. Among the oldest examples of this character are those produced at Coventry, Conn. As early as 1813 a glass factory was started in that town, where decanters, tumblers, bottles, pocket flasks, snuff cannisters, inkstands, vases and apothecaries' phials and jars were manufactured. From about 1820 to 1830 Thomas Stebbins and his successors, Stebbins and Chamberlin, operated the works, during which period flasks of various sizes were produced, with portrait busts of General Lafayette and Governor DeWitt Clinton, in commemoration of the opening of the Erie Canal, in 1825. These flasks were colored sapphire blue, green, brown, and amber.



PRESSED GLASS CURTAIN KNOBS  
American, about 1840

About 1830 several flask designs bearing representations of the first railroads appeared. One of these shows a horse drawing a four-wheeled car along a rail. The vehicle is filled with freight. Around the margin of the device is the inscription, "Success to the Railroad." Another variety of the railroad flask shows an early four-wheeled locomotive, surrounded by the same inscription. It is probable that these interesting patterns were produced at the Kensington Glass Works, Philadelphia, which preceded the Dyottville Works.

Pressed glass was first made in the United States by Deming Jarves, at Sandwich, Mass. His earliest attempt in this direction was made at the suggestion of a carpenter, who built the first glass press in 1827, in which year the first pressed tumbler was produced in America by mechanical means, in

the presence of several witnesses. The earliest examples were thick and clumsy, but the process was rapidly improved and within the next ten or fifteen years several other factories in the United States were making a good grade of pressed ware. Many of the little glass teacup plates, which were so popular between 1830 and 1850, were produced at the Sandwich works. Some of these were ornamented with relief or intaglio heads of prominent Americans, and representations of noted sailing vessels, and designs representing historical and



GLASS FLASKS  
In Commemoration of the First Railroads in America

political events. Collectors have heretofore believed that these objects were made in England, but it is now known that they were all made in this country.

The pressed glass knobs used so extensively during the second quarter of the nineteenth century on sideboards, bureaus, chests and washstands, which have always been believed to have been produced in England, were also made in this country, many of the patterns originating at Sandwich. Curtain and mirror knobs, in clear white and opalescent glass were also made extensively at Sandwich, Pittsburgh and other American factories.

The collection of American glass in the Pennsylvania Museum illustrates the various processes of glass making in this country, including, as it does, representative examples of blown, cut, pressed, enameled, silvered, stained and cameo and intaglio-carved glass. Some of the later achievements in American glass making excel in technical and artistic qualities the best wares of European factories.

E. A. B.